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# State & Private Forestry



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TRENDS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT

IN

CONNECTICUT TIMBER-BASED INDUSTRIES

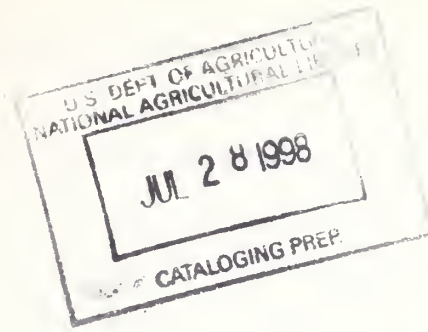
1958 to 1967

Division of Cooperative Forest Management

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



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TRENDS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT  
IN  
CONNECTICUT TIMBER-BASED INDUSTRIES  
1958 to 1967

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Branch of General Forestry Assistance  
Division of Cooperative Forest Management  
Northeastern Area, S&PF  
September, 1969

1954  
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## Introduction

Average annual employment in the timber-based industries increased from 1958 to 1967. In the 15 3-digit Standard Industrial Classifications that include timber-based industries, average employment increased in 11 of them, remained constant in 1, and decreased in 3. In the 3 groups with decreases, in only one (Paperboard Mills) was there a large number of job losses.

As it is not possible to separate wood and metal furniture manufacturing plants in a 3-digit coding, only an approximation can be made of the total number employed in timber-based industries. Assuming that 50% of the Furniture and Fixtures employment is in wood furniture-fixture plants, total timber-based employment rose from about 10,970 in 1958 to 13,432 in 1967. Thus there was an estimated increase in employment of about 22 1/2%. Most of all jobs depend on raw wood and fibres from outside the State.

All data were provided by the U. S. Department of Labor's Boston office from data obtained from the Connecticut Employment Service. Figures include only employment "covered" by unemployment compensation laws.

### A. Lumber and Wood Products (SIC 24)

In this major group of manufacturers occur the types of businesses field foresters are most directly involved with. These are Logging (SIC 2411), Sawmills and Planing Mills (SIC 242), Veneer and Plywood (SIC 243), and Wood Boxes and Containers (SIC 244). Average employment rose from 1486 in 1958 to 1955 in 1967, an increase of 32%.





1. Logging (SIC 241)

"Covered" employment includes very few of the people cutting timber in the State. There were 9 to 11 employees from 1958 to 1961, none in 1962-63, 5 and 3 in 1964-65 respectively, and none since. As there are often many self-employed loggers in a State with small woodlots comprising the forest land, it is possible that at least 10 to 15 more loggers are employed in Connecticut who are not covered by unemployment compensation provisions. However, the lack of covered employment in 1966-67 would indicate that other timber-based industries in the State rely almost entirely on wood supplies from out-of-State.

2. Sawmills, Planing Mills (SIC 242)

Employment in this group increased from 159 in 1958 to 226 in 1967, the high for the period. If part or all of the increase was in sawmill employment, sawmill owners may be operating their own logging crews, thus accounting for the absence of covered employment in SIC 241.

Considering the increasing urbanization in the State, the increase in sawmill-planing mill employment raises an interesting question. Predominantly a rural area business enterprise, how did business owners adapt their operations to take advantage of the urbanizing influence and expand their business? From the employment figures, they apparently made a successful adjustment to the changing land use patterns, particularly since 1962. In 1962, employment reached a low of 148. The increase to 226 in 1967 was a 53% increase in number employed in 5 years.



3. Millwork, Veneer, Plywood Mills (SIC 243)

Mills in this group account for over half of all employment in the Lumber and Wood Products classification. There was a steady rise in employment from 693 in 1958 to 1213 in 1965, the high for the decade, which dropped to 1006 in 1967. The increase in 10 years was 45%.

Usually thought of as rural area types of businesses closely connected to logging and sawmilling, the increased employment in a rapidly urbanizing State raises the same question mentioned previously.

4. Wood Boxes, Containers, (SIC 244)

There was a 50% increase in employment in this group in the decade. Employment rose from 201 in 1958 to 300 in 1967. High for the decade was 342 in 1966. The rise is noteworthy in that all except one other New England State shows decreased employment in this manufacturing group. Connecticut manufacturers apparently have a favorable market location compared to northern New England manufacturers.

5. Wood Products Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC) (SIC 249)

Employment of 423 in 1967 was essentially unchanged after 10 years. There was, however, a 5-year period from 1961 to 1965 when employment averaged 366.

This miscellaneous group of manufacturers apparently are somewhat different than those in other New England States, all of whom show increased employment in the decade. In some States, it is the only group in the Lumber and Wood Products field that showed increased employment.



B. Furniture and Fixtures (SIC 25)

Including both wood and metal furniture-fixture manufacturers, there were nearly 5,000 people employed in 1967 in the 5 groups of the classification. Over half of the total were employed in the household furniture group, SIC 251. Usually, wood furniture manufacturers account for most of the employment in the group.

Two other groups that include large timber-based manufacturers are SIC 252 and 254. Thus, it is likely that wood furniture-fixture plants accounted for at least 50% of the total of 5,000 employed in 1967.

1. Household Furniture (SIC 251)

Employment in this group leaped spectacularly from 1962 to 1967, from 1,796 to 2,806, a jump of 56%. From 1958 to 1962, employment ranged between 1,796 and 1,889. In 1967, the group ranked 2nd in employment in the 15 timber-based manufacturing groups. Although there was a rapid, sustained, growth between 1962 and 1966, employment may have reached a temporary plateau, as there was only a slight rise in 1967. The employment pattern does not show the extreme yearly deviations characteristic of the same manufacturing group in Massachusetts. It is possible therefore that the growth in employment will be stable if a plateau has been reached.

2. Office Furniture (SIC 252)

Employment rose from 446 in 1958 to 562 in 1967, about 26%. The high of 700 occurred in 1963, while the low of 433 was in 1961. In general, there has been a steady growth throughout the period, except for the peaks in 1962-63. Future employment opportunities appear to be good.



3. Public Building Furniture (SIC 253)

This group employed the fewest people in the furniture-fixture classification. Employment during the decade varied considerably from a high of 447 in 1961 to a low of 197 in 1963. After 1963 there was a steady rise in employment, and the 1967 figure of 340 was slightly above the 316 at the start of the decade. Opportunities for increasing employment could be good.

4. Partitions and Fixtures (SIC 254)

Wood partition and fixtures manufacturers are important members of this group. During the period, the group as a whole shows an increase in employment of 47%, from 294 to 431. Although there was a drop in number employed in 1963-64, at no time in the decade was there a return to the 294 low of 1958. Opportunities for continued employment increases would seem to be good.

5. Furniture and Fixtures Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC 259)

This miscellaneous group was the only one in the classification with slightly decreasing employment. Employment declined from 867 in 1958 to 1961, remained stable at about 770-790 from 1961 to 1965, rose in 1966 close to the beginning figure, and dropped in 1967 to 812. It would appear as though employment is stabilized at between 770 and 850, but a slight decline in future years could be possible.

C. Paper and Allied Products (SIC 26)

Employment in this classification of over 9,000 in 1967 was the largest in the 3 major timber-based industries, accounting for 57% of the total number employed. There were slightly more than 7,600 employed in 1958. Four of the 5 groups showed an increase in employment, one a large decrease.





1. Paper Mills (SIC 262)

Employment in 1958 was 732. Increasing sharply to 934 in 1959, there was a slow increase thereafter to 1,088 in 1967. As there was no Logging employment shown in 1967 (SIC 241), it is assumed that the paper mills operate entirely on pulp shipped into the State. The rise in employment since 1958 followed an opposite trend from that in other New England States. It is assumed therefore that employment is likely to stabilize at 1,000 to 1,100 people.

2. Paperboard Mills (SIC 263)

Employment in this group dropped from a high of 3,526 in 1958 to 2,788 in 1967. The low for the period was 2,701 in 1966. It would appear as though employment was stabilizing at 2,700 to 2,800 people.

In number employed, the group dropped from first to third position in 10 years. It is likely that the decrease resulted from automated and improved operating techniques as similar trends have occurred for these reasons in other States. It is likely therefore that the manufacturing group has been strengthened economically and good employment opportunities will continue to exist.

3. Converted Paper Products (SIC 264)

Employment doubled in 10 years in this group, rising from 704 in 1958 to 1,398 in 1967. With increasing urbanization, it is likely that rapid growth in employment will continue. Often comprised of relatively small firms employing a high percentage of female workers, average wages paid are often the lowest of the high-wage Paper and Allied Products classification.



4. Paper Boxes, Tubes, Containers (SIC 265)

This group employed more people in 1966-67 than any of the other 14 groups, replacing the Paperboard group as the leading employers. Employment rose 31%, from 2,370 in 1958 to a 3,101 high in 1967. The low for the decade 2,313 in 1960.

Unlike other New England States, paper container (SIC 265) employment apparently did not increase at the expense of wood container (SIC 244) employment, as there was an increase in both groups. However, it is likely that there will be a continuing increase in paper container employment that could reduce wood container employment as in other States.

5. Building Paper and Building Board Mills (SIC 266)

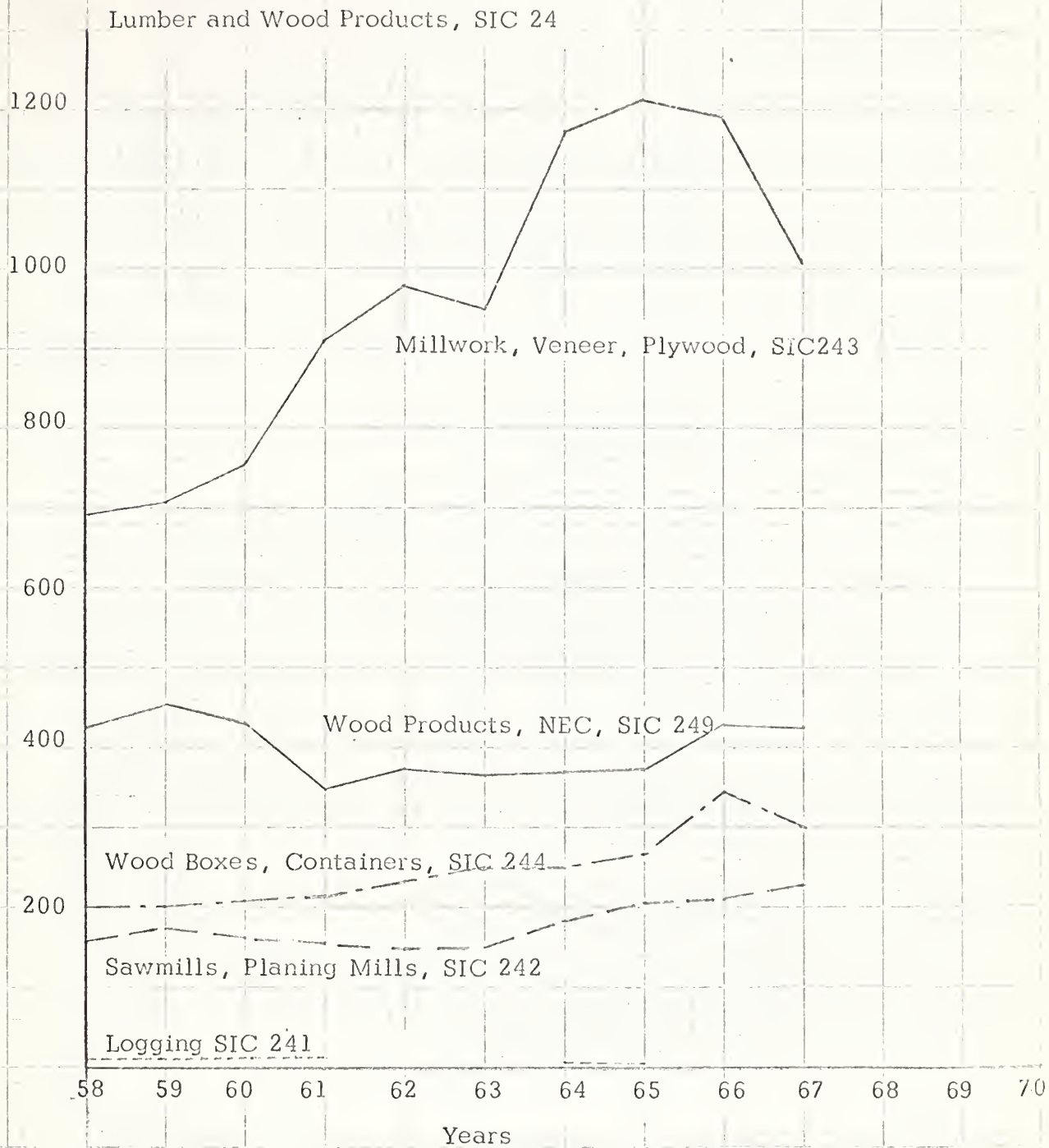
This group of manufacturers registered the largest percentage gain in employment, 126%, of all timber-based firms. Employment was a low 277 in 1958, and reached a high in 1967 of 627. The rise was steady throughout the decade.

The employment pattern of this group differs again from that of groups in surrounding States, most of which show stable or declining employment.

Reasons for the opposite pattern are unknown, but it would appear as though location might be a major factor. Whether or not growth in employment will continue may be problematical in view of the declines in other States.



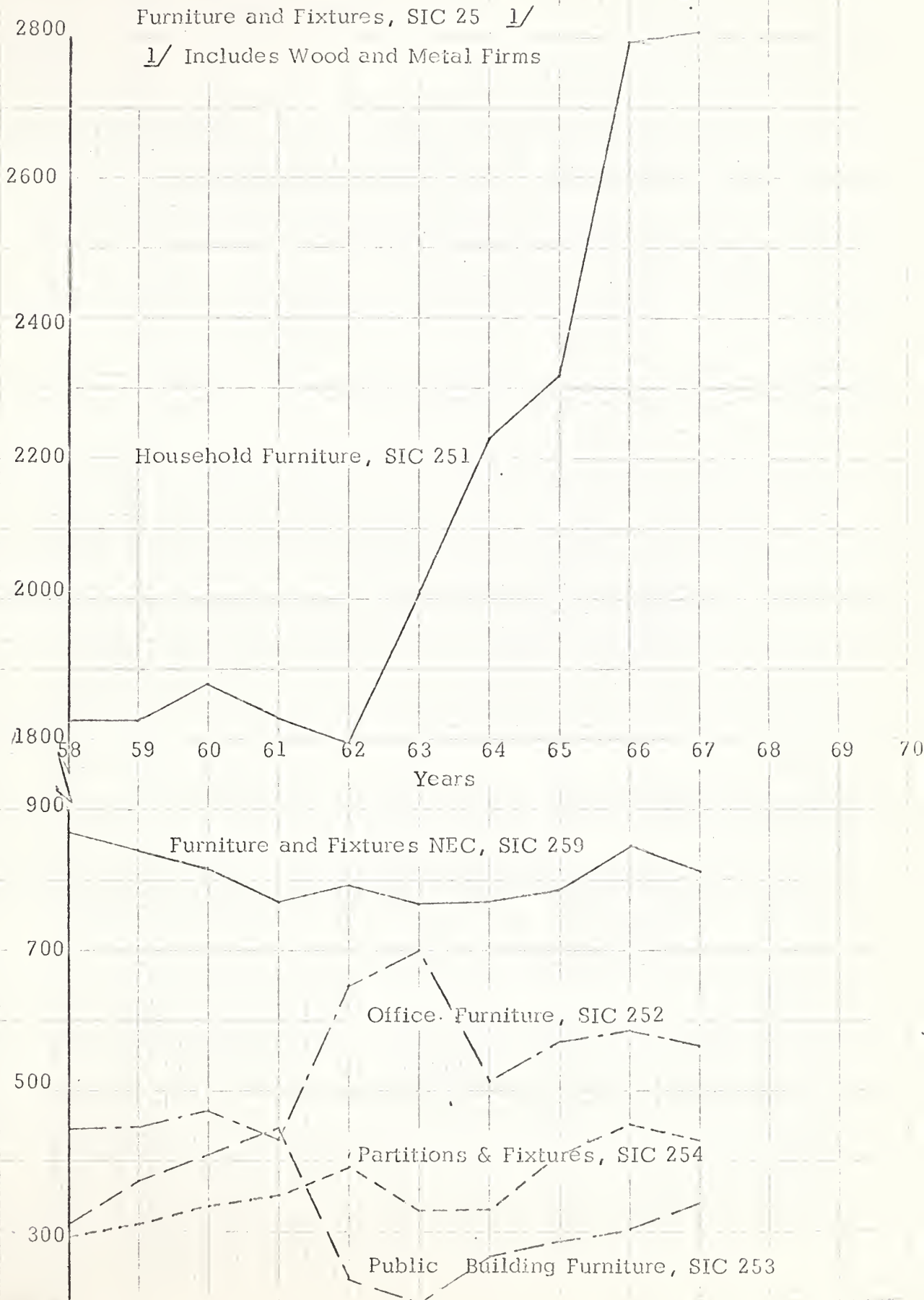
Average Annual Employment in Connecticut  
Timber-Based Industries, 1958 to 1967



NEC: Not Elsewhere Classified



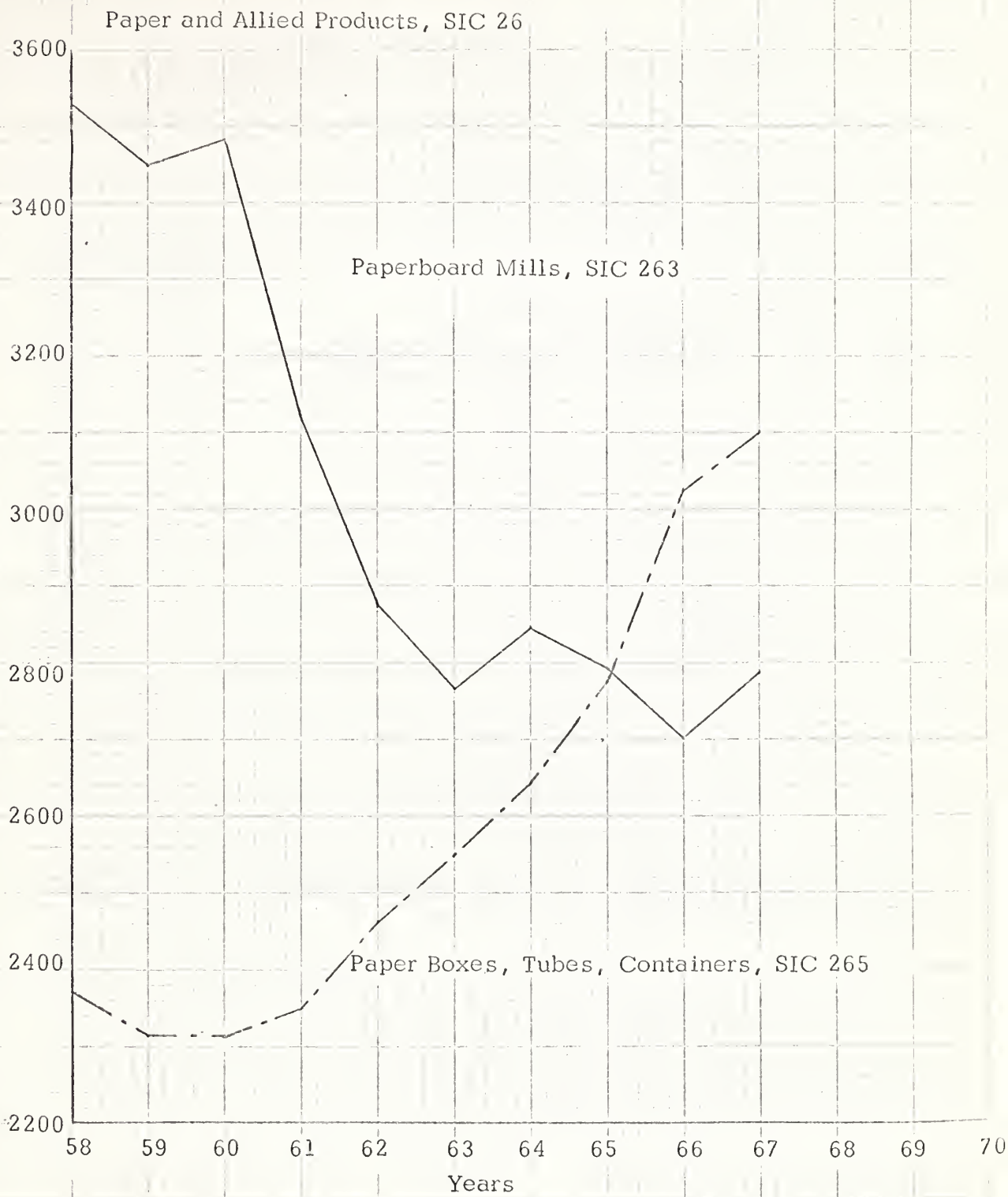
Average Annual Employment in Connecticut  
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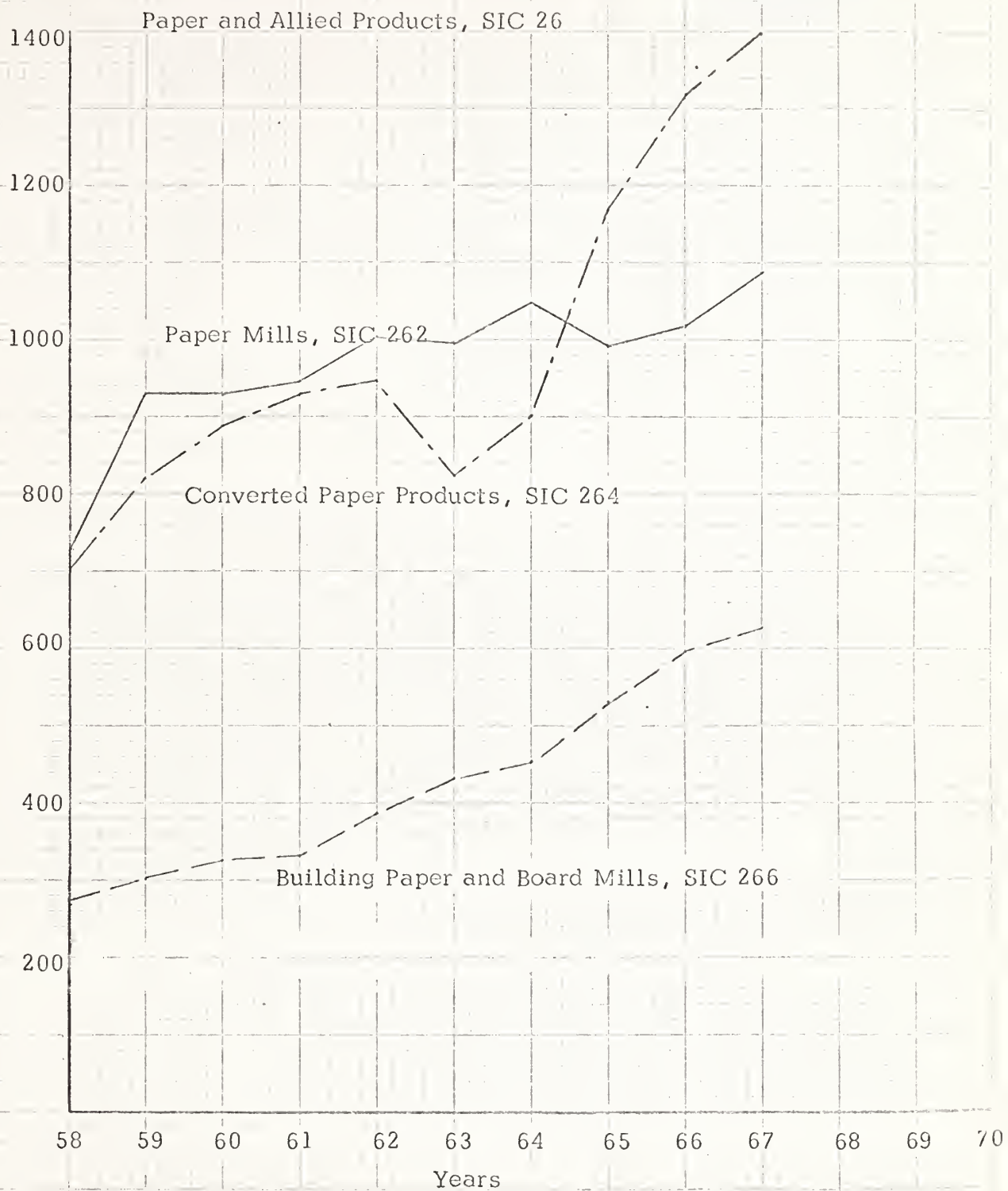


Average Annual Employment in Connecticut  
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